

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

JOHN CHRISTIE, M.D.,

ABERDEEN,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH; MEMBER OF THE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND; LECTURER ON MIDWIFERY
AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIR OF MIDWIFERY,

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

1869.



TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE H. A. BRUCE, M.P.,
HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

214 UNION STREET,
ABERDEEN, 21st JANUARY, 1869.

SIR,

I RESPECTFULLY beg to offer myself as a Candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen, vacant in consequence of the death of Dr. Dyce.

In support of my application, I have the honour to submit for your consideration the grounds on which I venture to claim your notice.

1st., For upwards of twenty-five years I have been in extensive Midwifery practice, and have, during all that time, striven to cultivate an acquaintance with it alike in its Literary, Scientific, and Practical aspects.

2nd., In token of this, in 1848, I published in the Obstetric Record, an English Medical Journal, devoted to the subject of Midwifery, a translation from the German, of a Monograph "On the Obliquely Contracted Pelvis, etc.," (Das Shrag Verengte Becken etc.), by the celebrated Heidelberg Professor of Midwifery, Dr Franz Carl Naegele, with Notes and an Appendix from M. Danyau's French Translation of the same work. This translation met with the approval of the profession, as will be seen in the testimonials appended. In the same Medical Journal, I gave a Translation, also from the German, of the work by his Son, (Dr Hermann Franz Naegele), and successor in the Chair of Midwifery, "On the Mechanism of Labour, etc." (Die Lehre vom Mechanismus der Geburt, etc.); and from the French, of the portion of M. Puzos' Work devoted to the consideration of "The Hemorrhage which occurs in Pregnant Women, etc."

3rd., I have published a few papers on subjects connected with Midwifery, the titles of which I subsequently quote.

4th., Some years ago, I began a course of Lectures on

Midwifery, published Notes of the heads of which I submit along with my application, and which were recognised by the Colleges of Surgeons of London and Edinburgh, by the Navy Medical Authorities, and by certain other public bodies. In consequence, however, of the monopoly of Medical Teaching in the Universities, I was compelled to abandon my purpose, and forego lecturing to Medical Students, as the pupils of a recognised Medical School, although up to the present hour I have continued to teach Midwifery.

5th., The late Dr. Dyce and I were appointed Accoucheurs to the Aberdeen General Dispensary, Lying-in, and Vaccine Institution. This arrangement subsisted for a time, but on my appointment as one of the ordinary Medical Officers, Dr. Dyce's special appointment and mine were recalled. Two years ago, I resigned connection with the Institution, in consequence of my increasing private Midwifery and general practice.

6th., For several years, down to the union of the Aberdeen Universities, in 1858, I held office in King's College and University, as Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine.

This outline of my professional career will, I hope, show I have throughout specially cultivated Midwifery, and I would most respectfully urge my claim to one of the few rewards open to the Medical profession in my native city; because I feel that, under not a few difficulties and discouragements, I have faithfully laboured to the best of my ability to fit myself for it.

If so fortunate as to be appointed to the Chair, I shall do all I can to justify the confidence of the Crown reposed in me, by striving earnestly to uphold the high character of the University Medical School, in the important and honourable sphere of labour thus opened up to me.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN CHRISTIE.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MIDWIFERY BY
DR. CHRISTIE.

I.

On the Prevention of Uterine Hæmorrhage, arising after Delivery from Atony of the Uterus.—Published in the British Record of Obstetric Medicine and Surgery, 1848.

II.

The Theory of the Mechanism of Labour. By Hermann Franz Naegele, Doctor in Medicine and Surgery, Private Teacher in the University of Heidelberg, &c. Translated from the German for the Obstetric Record, by JOHN CHRISTIE, M.D., 1848.

III.

Memoir on the Hæmorrhage which occurs to Pregnant Women; the means of arresting it without inducing Labour, and on the method of proceeding to Deliver, in cases of necessity, &c. Translated from the Works of M. Puzos for the Obstetric Record, by JOHN CHRISTIE, M.D., 1849.

IV.

The Obliquely Contracted Female Pelvis, with an Appendix on its most important Vices of Conformation. By F. C. Naegele, M.D., Ordinary Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics, and Director of the Lying-in Institution, at Heidelberg, etc. etc. With Sixteen Engravings. Translated from the German, by JOHN CHRISTIE, M.D.—With the Notes [(translated)] and Plates, of M. Danyau, the French Translator, 1848.—Published in the Obstetric Record for 1848.

V.

“The reader will find an excellent Translation of Naegele’s valuable Memoir, by Dr. CHRISTIE, Aberdeen, in the British Record of Obstetric Medicine.” (Theory and Practice of Midwifery. By FLEETWOOD CHURCHILL, M.D., M.R.I.A., London, 1860.)

VI.

Inversion of the Uterus, and Death of the Patient, from a Midwife's Forcible Extraction of the Placenta.—Published in the Monthly Journal of Medical Science, 1858.

VII.

On the Contractions of the Uterus.—Published in the Edinburgh Medical Journal, 1859.

VIII.

Observations on Shoulder Presentations of the Fœtus.—Published in the Edinburgh Medical Journal, 1865.

IX.

LECTURE—Introductory to a Course of Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children.—(Winter Session 1860-61.)

X.

Heads of a Course of Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children.—Aberdeen, 1861.

XI.

A Letter on the Late Case of Cæsarian Section, in the St. Nicholas Poor House, Aberdeen, to ROBERT DYCE, Esq., M.D., Professor of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen.—Aberdeen 1862.

 CERTIFICATES.

From FLEETWOOD CHURCHILL, M.D. Ed. and Dub.; M.R.I.A.; Fellow of the King's and Queen's College in Ireland; Fellow and Member of various Learned Societies; author of "The Theory and Practice of Midwifery"; "On the Diseases of Women"; "On the Diseases of Children"; "Manual for Midwives and Monthly Nurses": Contributions to the Medical Journals.

15 ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN,

Jan. 23, 1869.

I have known Dr. CHRISTIE's Writings, and have had correspondence with him, greatly to the benefit of one of my own books. I am quite sure that he is a thoroughly accomplished Physician; and that in his own department of Midwifery, he has few equals. I think him admirably qualified for a Teacher of Midwifery.

FL. CHURCHILL, M.D.

15 STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN,
Oct. 29th, 1860.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,—I can have no hesitation whatever in expressing my conviction of your qualification as a Teacher of Midwifery, though I can hardly conceive it to be necessary. We have had some correspondence from time to time, quite enough to show me that you are not only fully versed in the principles of Midwifery, but minutely acquainted with its details. I have been indebted to you for more than one or two corrections in my Work on the subject, and have derived great benefit from your kind criticisms.

There can't be a doubt that you are fully and admirably qualified to Lecture on Midwifery, and I heartily wish you success.

Yours, most truly,

FL. CHURCHILL, M.D.

From JAMES M. DUNCAN, M.D., F.R.C.P., Ed., Fellow and Member of the Royal Council of the Royal Society, Edinburgh; Honorary Fellow of the Obstetric Society, London: Author "On the Statistics of Pregnancy," and numerous Contributions to the Medical Journals.

30 CHARLOTTE SQUARE, EDINBURGH,
January 19, 1869.

I can, with pleasure, certify, that Dr. CHRISTIE has been long known to me as a Teacher and Student of Midwifery, as a gentleman who has devoted much labour in these directions. His published writings evince zeal, intelligence, and acuteness in Obstetrics.

I believe Dr. CHRISTIE to be well qualified to fill the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen.

J. MATTHEWS DUNCAN.

From ROBERT BARNES, M.D., Lond., F.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.; Honorary Member of the Dublin Obstetric Society; Foreign Member of the Berlin Obstetric Society; Honorary Member of the University of Kharkoff, Russia, &c.; Examiner in Midwifery, Royal College of Surgeons of England; Obstetric Physician and Lecturer on Midwifery, St. Thomas' Hospital, &c.; Author of Lettsomian Lectures "On the Physiology and Treatment of Placenta Prævia"; "Fatty Degeneration of the Placenta, &c.; and numerous Contributions to the Medical Journals.

46 FINSBURY SQUARE,
Jan. 23, 1869.

MY DEAR SIR,—Permit me to say that your Obstetric Work and position are so well known to me, that no excuse can be needed for asking my opinion as to your fitness to fill the office of Professor of

Midwifery. Of the personal qualifications—not having the pleasure of being personally acquainted with you—I am unable to speak ; but I cannot hesitate to say that you have given sufficient scientific evidence to shew your fitness for the office.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

ROBERT BARNES, M.D.

Dr. CHRISTIE.

From ROBERT JAMIESON, M.A., M.D., &c., formerly Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine, in the Medical School of King's College, Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN, 25th Jan., 1869.

I hereby certify that Dr. JOHN CHRISTIE is highly qualified, by experience, as a Medical Teacher and Lecturer ; and is, from study, acquirements, and practice, in an especial way well fitted to teach the Science and Practice of Midwifery.

ROBERT JAMIESON, A.M., M.D.

From CHARLES CLAY, M.D., late Senior Surgeon and Lecturer on Midwifery to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester ; Fellow of the London Obstetrical Society ; author of Manual of Obstetric Operative Surgery ; late Editor of the Record of Obstetrics and other Works.

101 PICCADILLY, MANCHESTER,

Jan. 22, 1869.

From Dr. CHRISTIE's long practical experience, thorough knowledge of his profession, with his peculiar aptitude for teaching ; I consider him specially fitted to fill the Chair of Midwifery, in the University of Aberdeen ; and feel certain, that Students will find great advantage if he succeed in obtaining the appointment he has so long and so ardently wished for.

CHARLES CLAY, M.D.

101 PICCADILLY, MANCHESTER,

October, 27th 1860.

I HEREBY certify that I have been intimately acquainted with Dr. CHRISTIE, for some years, and entertain the highest opinion of his talent as an Obstetrician. I believe him in every way capable of Lecturing and Teaching Obstetric Medicine and Surgery with credit to himself and advantage to any pupils placed under his charge.

CHARLES CLAY, M.D.

From D. PEEL RITCHIE, M.D., Medical Officer, Royal Dispensary; Fellow and Secretary Edin. Obstetrical Society; late Extra Physician Royal Edin. Hospital for Sick Children. &c., &c.

16 HILL STREET, EDINBURGH,

22nd Jan., 1869.

Dr. CHRISTIE is most favourably known to me as the author of various interesting and valuable contributions to the Medical Journals, and as the translator of an important Paper, by Naegele, on the Obliquely Contracted Pelvis. From these, and from correspondence I have had with him on kindred subjects, I have formed a high opinion of his acquaintance with the British and Foreign Literature of Obstetric Medicine—from the fact of his having been long engaged in the Teaching of Midwifery, and from his extensive practical knowledge of this department of Medicine; I cannot but regard him as very well qualified to fill the Chair of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children, in the University of Aberdeen.

D. PEEL RITCHIE, M.D.

From JAMES PATERSON, M.D., C.M., F.F.P.S., Glas.; late Lecturer on Midwifery, Anderson's University, Glasgow.

6 WINDSOR PLACE, GLASGOW,

22nd Jan., 1869.

As Dr. JOHN CHRISTIE is about to become a Candidate for the vacant Chair of Midwifery, in the University of Aberdeen, so long and so ably filled by Dr. Dyce, it affords me unfeigned pleasure to testify to his eminent qualifications and experience for undertaking the duties of the office. Dr. CHRISTIE has long enjoyed a very extensive practice in Midwifery, and the various papers he has published on several subjects of great importance connected with it, not only shew that he fully understands the Theory and Practice of Midwifery, but that he is also well qualified to communicate his practical knowledge to his brethern in the profession.

If elected to fill the Chair, I have no doubt Dr. CHRISTIE will most satisfactorily maintain and extend the high character of the Obstetrical Department in the University of Aberdeen.

JAMES PATERSON, M.D.

From ROBERT BEVERIDGE, M.B., Aberd., L.R.C.S., Edin.; Member of the Philosophical Society, Aberdeen; Member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Aberdeen; Lecturer on Pathology, and Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen; one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen; Author "On the Lateral Movements of the Foot"; "The Use of the Epiglottis."

36, KING STREET, ABERDEEN,

Jan. 25th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—It affords me great pleasure to testify to your many qualifications for the Chair of Midwifery. Your long experience as a Teacher in the Medical School here, has, as all will admit, gives you a decided claim on such an appointment; while the Courses of Lectures on Midwifery which you have already delivered here, not only testify to your acquaintance with the subject, but show how valuable would be your instructions to the Students of the University. I need scarcely add, that your writings on this subject, and especially your translation of Naegele's Work, have rendered your name widely known as an earnest cultivator of science.

I am, yours sincerely,

R. BEVERIDGE.

Dr. J. CHRISTIE.

At a Meeting of the Directors of the ABERDEEN GENERAL DISPENSARY, held within the TOWN HALL, the 30th June, 1862.

On the motion of the Chairman, the meeting unanimously resolved to appoint, and did appoint Dr. Dyce, and Dr. Christie, to be Accoucheur-Physicians for the Dispensary.

CERTIFICATES OF GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.

UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN,

9th Jany., 1856.

MY DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours, intimating that you are at present making application for the situation of Surgeon to a public establishment, and that you wish me to testify as to your fitness for the appointment, I have to state that, having had ample opportunity of judging of your abilities, and of your professional acquirements, not only as a Practitioner, but likewise as well acquainted with the theory and principles of the various departments of medical science, I should consider you well qualified for undertaking the important duties of the office to which you aspire. These, I am satisfied, you

will discharge faithfully and conscientiously, to the entire satisfaction of those in whom the appointment is invested, and for the benefit of those who may be placed under your charge.

Though your removal shall be a serious loss to our Medical School, in which you have, for several years, delivered a Course of Lectures, that has been highly prized, and by which you have gained the favourable opinion of the Students ; yet I shall be glad to hear of your promotion to a situation from which your attainments shall have better recompense than, I regret to say, our School has afforded.

With every wish for your success, believe me, yours sincerely,

Aw. FYFE, M.D.,

Professor of Medicine and of Chemistry.

From ROBERT JAMIESON, M.A., M.D., &c., formerly Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine, in the Medical School of King's College, Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN, 22d June, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR,—I can scarcely think it necessary that you should require any certificate of professional ability, either surgical or medical, in coming before any body in our community as a candidate for the privilege of Hospital employment ; for, to your townsmen generally, your great industry and indomitable application to matters of medical, surgical, and social importance, ought to be as generally appreciated as they have been for many years widely exercised. However, as you ask me to bear testimony in your favour on this occasion, I consider that I only discharge a duty, as one of the medical section of the Aberdeen public, in declaring that I consider you to be one of the most zealous, soundest, and best professionally-informed practitioners that I have known, either here or elsewhere. As to your surgical qualification for the office you aim at there cannot be a shadow of a doubt, while your independence of thought in the formation of pathological opinions, and acquired experience in the art of imparting knowledge to others, render you, in my estimation, and in that of many, a very desirable addition to the Staff of an Hospital attended by so large a body of Students as the Infirmary of Aberdeen.

I am, my Dear Sir, yours very truly,

ROBERT JAMIESON, M.D,

Dr. CHRISTIE, Aberdeen.

From the late GEORGE RAINY, M.D.; late Lecturer on Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children; author of various contributions to the Medical Journals.

ABERDEEN, 24th June, 1859.

I certify that I have seen Dr. JOHN CHRISTIE perform important surgical operations with great skill and dexterity; and I am of the opinion that he is eminently qualified for discharging efficiently the duties of a practical Surgeon in any public Institution.

GEO. RAINY.

From the late GEORGE SUTHERLAND, M.A., L.R.C.P., Edin.; late House Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen; Medical Officer, City Parish, Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN, 23rd June, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR,—As you have often been pleased to confide in me, so far as to ask my assistance in many of the capital operations which you have performed since you came to Aberdeen—some twelve years ago; I can therefore speak with perfect confidence of your many qualifications as an operating Surgeon.

You not only operate quickly, neatly, and with dexterity, but you have been very successful, even in the most complicated cases. I can also testify in the most flattering and unqualified terms, as to your many other professional accomplishments; of your extensive Literary and Scientific acquirements; and of your gentlemanly frank and unaffected manners to the Students under your care.

Permit me farther to add, that I consider you a person peculiarly fitted to be the Medical Student's Teacher and adviser, as Literary and Scientific knowledge is but too much neglected by them; and the want of those accomplishments being only felt and regretted by the Student, where he has to join the educated and intelligent circle in which he generally moves.

With my best wishes for your success, I am, my Dear Sir, Yours very sincerely,

GEORGE SUTHERLAND.

Dr. CHRISTIE, Aberdeen.